

No Place for Old Trees

Cass Turnbull

PlantAmnesty/TreePAC

Thank you
Washington State Department of Natural Resources and USDA Forest Service



Beliefs

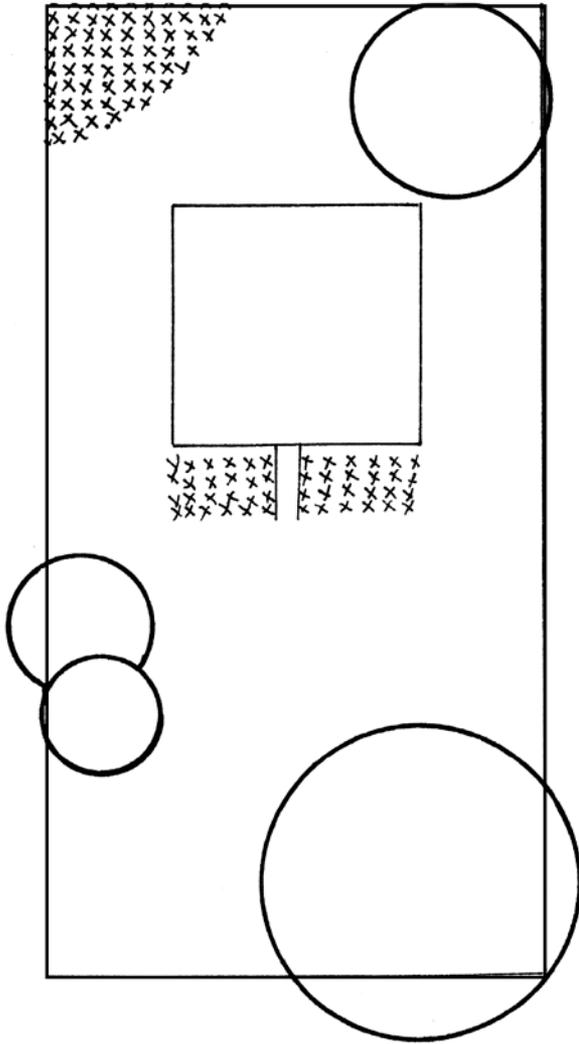
- Trees are nice but not necessary
- Seattle already has a lot of trees
- Seattle is a clean, healthy, environmentally responsible City
- If we run low on trees, we'll plant more, in fact we already are!

For the record

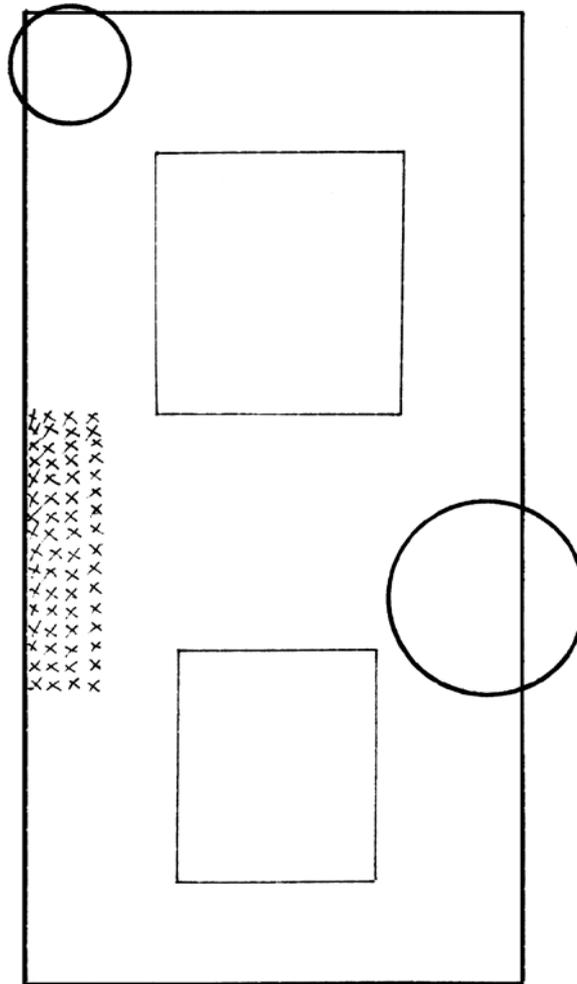
- Not all trees should be saved.
- Density is good for the larger environment, and we must accommodate more people.
- We must also keep sufficient green spaces to ensure the success of higher density living.

To retain trees

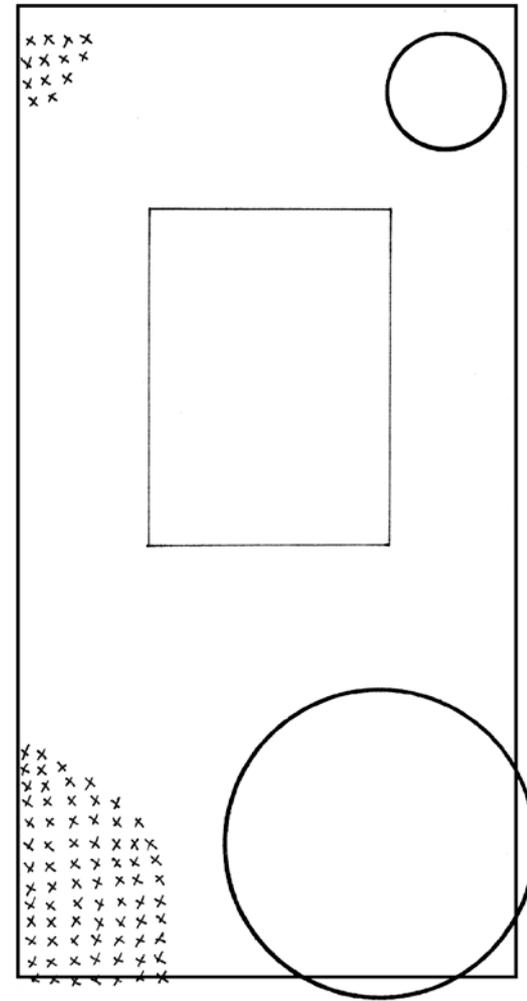
- Accommodate
- Mitigate for unavoidable tree losses
- Legislate
- Track
- Plan
- Enforce
- Fund



SMALL LOT + SMALL HOUSE + 4 TREES
+ SHRUBS. ONE TREE IS LARGE.



SMALL LOT + SMALL HOUSE
+ MOTHER-IN-LAW + 2 TREES +
VEGIE GARDEN. NEITHER TREE IS LARGE.



SMALL LOT + MACMANSION + 2 TREES
+ SHRUBS. ONE TREE IS LARGE.



And the DADU



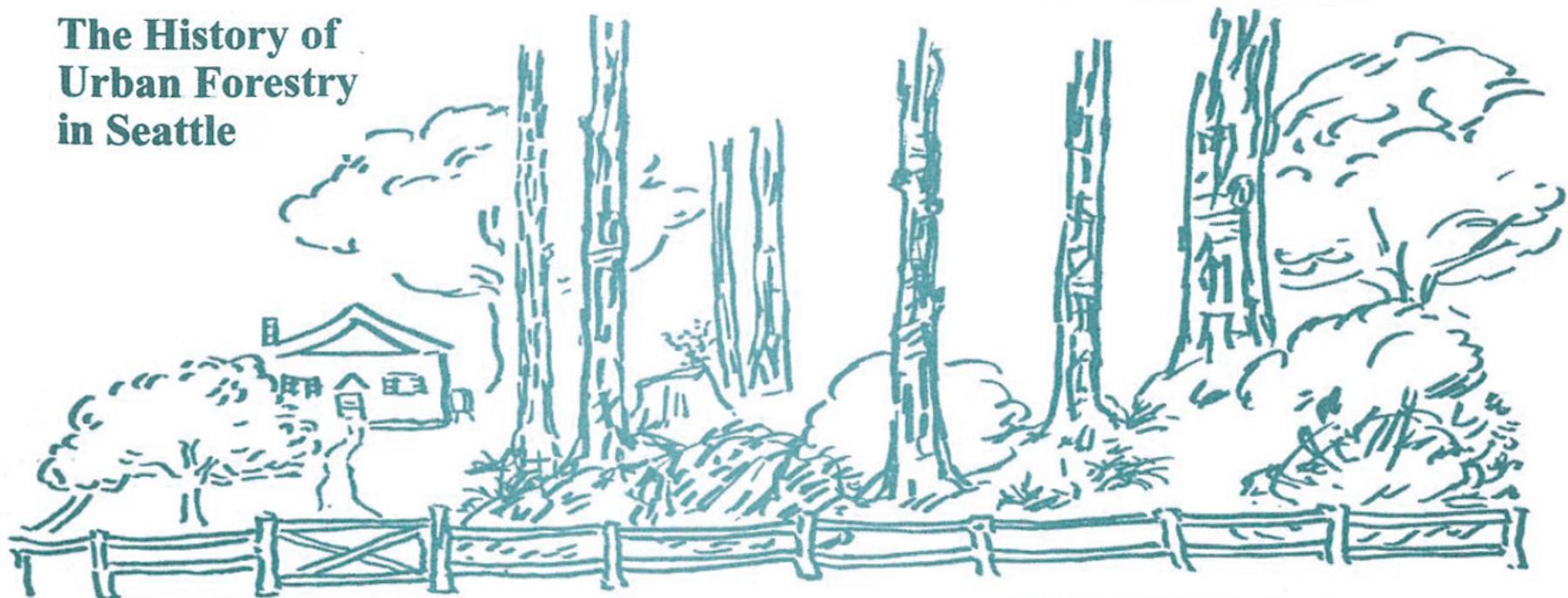
open space = equals trees

reasons

- 1) We need ALL the land for housing to stop sprawl which reduces global climate change and saves to woods and farms
- 2) You can't tell people what to do on their own property
- 3) The New Green Infrastructure can do the work that trees usually do, in less space.

Is there a way to have density and green space ?

The History of Urban Forestry in Seattle









Two New Trees for Every One Cut Down!

-KA

Density and Trees



Mutual Co-existence - The Urban Forest as it could be.



Housing can always build up, trees and parks can only exist on the ground

Unintended consequences of density without green

- Middle income families need affordable housing and want backyards, or near by green for their kids.
- People move farther away from work to find them and commute to Seattle for the jobs.

Two options only

- Preserve more private open space/trees
- Add more public open space/trees

Seattle's other commitments

- For social/racial/ environmental justice
- Human health



Without
green will

© Doug Rickard, / Courtesy of the artist and Stephen Wir

Seattle be
Just?



Social and racial equality

- Diseases of the poor are the ones mitigated by green.
- Smaller houses are more affordable.
- Trees are the poor man's air-conditioning.
- Low income people have less access to distant green. Also the very old, the very young, infirm, and people dependant on mass transportation.



- Why black people don't go camping.
- Stewardship ethic and growing up 'near' green.
- Immigrants use the local environment more, for fishing and food crops

Francis Kuo

- Inner city studies Chicago's Robert Taylor Homes, and Ida B. Wells low-rise, low-income apartments studies.
- More (1/3) violent and property crime.

More procrastination in facing their major challenges and assessed their challenges as more severe, less soluble, and more long-standing.

- Found that enhanced effectiveness of residents in greener buildings at managing life problems could be traced to their enhanced ability to concentrate.

Girls only

- Three aspects of self-discipline were tested (on children): the ability to resist distractions, the ability to inhibit impulses, and the ability to delay gratification.
- On each of these measures, those who lived in greener apartments scored higher than their counterparts.

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Reason #2

You can't tell people what to do
on their own property.

Retain more private open space



I like trees, but this one has got to go!

- Benefits of trees are cumulative, diverse accrue to the public good, and on-going
- Benefits of removing trees (and open space) are discrete, concentrated, and usually benefit the individual, and one time.



What does the homeowner need to know to accept the regulation of private trees?



Trees are a privately held
public utility

views and the public good



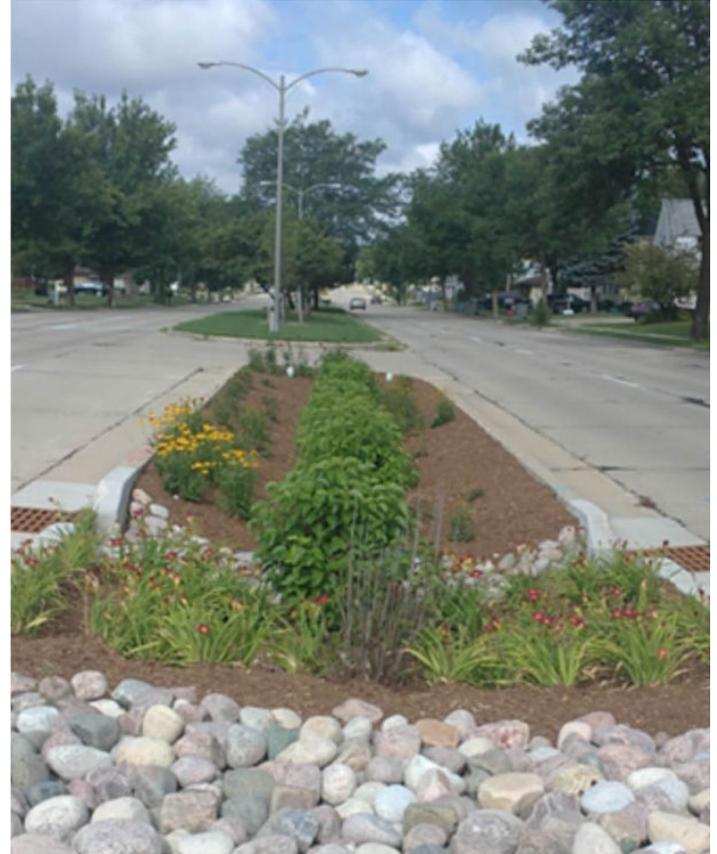
Reason #3 The other GI can do the job!

- bioswales
- green roofs
- permeable pavement
- rain barrels
- green walls
- cisterns

They can do the work of trees on less land.



But where will
we go to
exercise, play,
relax, see
Nature?



Go out and
play.

Where?





Green Roof



Sewage Treatment Plant



Permeable Pavement



Highway Noise Barrier



Public Art



Healthy Homes



Crisis Clinic



Heart Healthy



Environmental Education

WHO IS DOING THE HEAVY LIFTING?



URBAN FOREST



BIOSWALE

Names of Atlas	Globes	Agency
Urban Forest	All	All
Bioswale	stormwater, aesthetic	SPU
Green Roof	Heat Island, runoff, aesthetic	SCL, SPU
Sewage Treatment Plant	stormwater runoff	SPU
Permeable Pavement	stormwater run off	SPU
Highway noise barrier	noise pollution	SDOT
Public Art	aesthetic, neighborhood identity	
Healthy Homes	health – asthma	PH/HUD
Crisis clinic	health	SPD
Heart healthy	health	SFD, medic one
Environmental Education	education	Parks

- Benefits of the urban forest are preventative vs fixing the problem
- Taxpayers pick up the tab when there is insufficient Urban Forest.

Public green space

- Parks and what else? Green utilities?
- Land additions prevented by
 - Parks funding and plans. No pocket parks v. walkable. Land is too expensive for big and in UVs
 - Comprehensive Plan, quantitative metrics
 - And industrial zones exclusion– developer pressure – green factor – trades for green infra

The proposed Comprehensive Plan's goal is to make more use of existing land, not acquire more land.





How it will change.

Send money, guns and lawyers!

- Planning, Tracking
- Funding, Laws,
- And Enforcement.

Let's fund trees as infrastructure

Work ecosystem
services into City
accounting
system as capital
assets.





LEGISLATION

Tree Preservation Ordinance—stakeholder task force, facilitated by DPD?

How to make it acceptable to the public?

PSA Utilitree



PLANNING

- Keep quantitative open space metrics in the Comprehensive Plan.
- Include references to the Urban Forest Stewardship Plan in planning documents

The Future Seattle

- Beautiful and livable
- Environmentally responsible
- Environmentally just
- Fiscally responsible

